

Appl. No. 10/037,508
 Amdt. dated April ___, 2006
 Reply to Office action of February 22, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants received the Office Action dated February 22 2006, in which the Examiner: 1) provisionally rejected claims 1-6, 10-15 and 19 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting with regard to copending Application No. 10/020,809; 2) rejected claims 1-5, 10-14 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Sun Fire 6800/4810/4800/3800, "Systems Overview", hereinafter "SunFire 6800"; 3) rejected claims 6 and 15 under § 103 as obvious over SunFire 6800 in view of Frostrom (U.S. Pat. No. 6,561,827); and 4) rejected claims 1 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato (U.S. Pub. No. 2001/0018661) in view of Leigh. With this Response, Applicants amend claims 1 and 10. Based on the amendments and arguments contained herein, Applicants believe this case to be in condition for allowance.

I. The double patenting rejections

Applicants will file a Terminal Disclaimer in the present case to address the Examiner's double patenting rejection following issuance of a patent on application no. 10/020,809.

II. The rejections over SunFire 6800

The Examiner has focused on Figures 1-2 and 3-1 of the SunFire 6800 reference. Those figures are provided below for convenience.

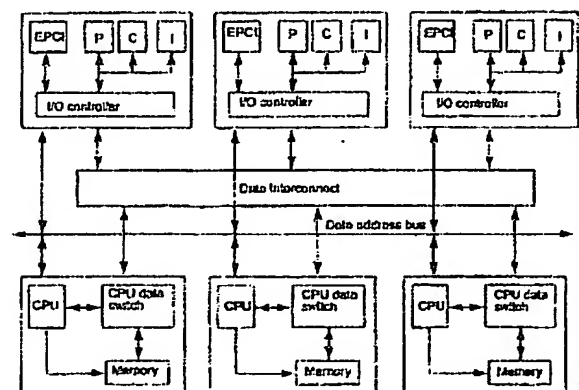
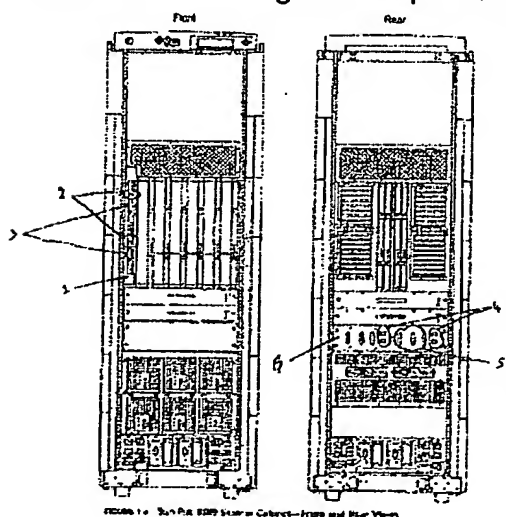


FIGURE 3-4 Standard Operation of the Sun Fire 6800/4810/4800/3800 Systems

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Figure 1-2 shows a front view and a rear view of the Sun Fire 6800 system cabinet. The Examiner has identified various components that are alleged to be connectors. Page 4 of the Sun Fire 6800 reference specifies that the cabinet can include as many as four Peripheral Component Interconnect (PCI) card assemblies.

Figure 3-1 illustrates a block diagram of the Sun Fire 6800 system. As shown, the system includes multiple I/O assemblies coupled through a data interconnect to multiple processor modules. Each I/O assembly includes an I/O controller and four other blocks labeled "EPCI," "P," "C," and "I." The SunFire 6800 reference does not appear to clearly identify these latter four I/O assembly components, but Applicants believe each such component to comprise a PCI card. If the Examiner has a different opinion as to the identity of the EPCI, P, C, and I components, Applicants would like consider the Examiner's viewpoint. As can be seen, the I/O controller couples through the data interconnect to any of the multiple processor modules.

As amended, claim 1 requires control logic that is adapted to "actively cause one of the first network connector and the second network to be operatively coupled to the management processor, while at the same time precluding the other of the first and second network connectors from being operatively coupled to the management processor." The claimed first network connector is on the front of the server while the claimed second network connector is on the rear of the server. In the SunFire 6800 reference, the PCI cards, assuming such cards have externally accessible connectors, are not described as being installed in the Sun Fire 6800 cabinet in such a way that one of a PCI card's external connectors is provided at the front of the cabinet and another of a PCI card's external connectors is provided at the rear of the cabinet. To the extent that the Examiner believes otherwise, Applicants respectfully assert that the Examiner is reading more into the SunFire 6800 reference than what is fairly stated. No other art of record satisfies this deficiency of the SunFire 6800 reference. For at least this reason, claim 1 and all claims dependent thereon are patentable over the SunFire 6800 reference.

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As noted above, claim 1 requires control logic that causes one of the connectors (front and rear connectors) to be operatively coupled to a management processor, while at the same time the other connector is precluded from being operatively coupled to the management processor. The SunFire 6800 reference has no such teaching. That is, the SunFire 6800 reference does not teach the selectively coupling of one PCI card connector at a time to a management processor. In a typical installation, such as presumably would be the case with the Sun Fire 6800 system, all PCI cards would be operatively coupled to the host logic. Accordingly, the SunFire 6800 reference does not teach or even suggest actively causing one of the first and second network connectors at a time to be operatively coupled to the management processor, while precluding the other of the connectors from being operatively coupled. No other art of record satisfies this deficiency of the SunFire 6800 reference. For this additional reason, Applicants believe claim 1 and all claims dependent thereon to be in condition for allowance.

Applicants have amended claim 10 in a similar fashion to that of claim 1. Accordingly, for the same or similar reasons articulated above regarding claim 1, Applicants contend that claim 10 and its dependent claims are patentable as well over the art of record.

II. The rejections over Sato in view of Leigh

Sato does not disclose control logic that to "actively cause one of the first network connector and the second network to be operatively coupled to the management processor, while at the same time precluding the other of the first and second network connectors from being operatively coupled to the management processor." While Sato may disclose connectors on the front and rear of a computer, Sato does not disclose control logic that selectively couples one of the connectors at time to a management processor, while precluding the other connector from being operatively coupled to the processor.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees

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are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Hewlett-Packard Development Company's Deposit Account No. 08-2025.

Respectfully submitted,



Jonathan M. Harris
PTO Reg. No. 44,144
CONLEY ROSE, P.C.
(713) 238-8000 (Phone)
(713) 238-8008 (Fax)
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANTS

HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
Legal Dept., M/S 35
P.O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400